



Black's Fort Messenger

The Official Newsletter of the Town of Abingdon, VA

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Ten Horses and the Community is Delighted

It was a normal August morning. People were commuting to work, stopping at the many shops and stores on Main Street, conducting business in the middle of town, when the Abingdon Town Police arrived to stop the flow of traffic at Cummings Street and Main. Sgt. Daniel Freeman directed traffic until there was a break and no more cars were allowed to move. There was a stillness for a moment, when over the hill they came: A fleet of 18-wheelers bearing the Budweiser insignia approached carrying precious cargo; no, not gallons of Budweiser beer, but a sight that took a full year and a half to bring before Abingdon's eyes.

When the trucks parked on Rensburg Drive, just past the Abingdon Market Pavilion, the crowds began to gather. It was quite a sight to see all those people staring at trucks and watching a hitch team build stables. The construction was fast, clean, and efficient. A hitch team of Kevin Sharpe, Manny Maza, Mike Wilkerson, and Amy Trout worked quickly to raise the bright red and silver stalls on the Market Pavilion, assisted by the Town's own James Agner and Pat Mason, and with the final bags of bedding spread, all was prepared.

Our first glimpse of them finally came: Every one of them 8 feet tall, bay with a white blaze on the nose, enormous and beautiful. Greg, Ben, Chip, Don, Rudy, George, Dil-



lon, Jack, Cass, and Sly were led gently by the bridles to their new home away from home on Rensburg Drive. A final inspection was given by Barley the Dalmatian who gave his approval to the new digs and settled into a mini-stall in the middle. The Clydes were no strangers to tourists and adoring visitors with cameras. I suspected a few even knew when to look at my camera as I went by filming, as they held steady poses and calm faces until I had passed, and returned to eating and drinking their fill.

For several days the horses were stabled here, being visited, brushed, fed, watered, photographed, filmed, and admired. In the middle of the week, they were taken to be shown elsewhere to our north side neighbors at Lonesome Pine Raceway in Coeburn. More and more crowds of citizens, travelers, and neighbors came to see them, to say "I have seen the Budweiser Clydesdales". What a sight they were.

On Saturday, August 8th the team was decorated with shiny, black, 100lb harnesses and yokes and steered to the roundabout of the Martha Washington Inn lawn.

Article and Pictures continue on Page 9...



From the “Upper Deck”



Mr. Kelly is pictured with Barley, the Budweiser Dalmatian.

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and was able to get out and about to see the many exciting community events that Abingdon had to offer. These events which consisted of concerts, plays, festivals, farmers markets, and parades hit a crescendo when the world famous Budweiser Clydesdales came to town and mesmerized thousands of residents and tourists who showed up in droves each day. For an entire week, the Market Pavilion looked like the receiving line for a royal wedding as an endless line of onlookers flowed through continuously to view and photograph these magnificent animals. The parade with the Clydesdales was spectacular enough to raise the hair on the neck of anyone. What a rush! For at least a week, we experienced the greatest community harmony I can ever remember in recent times.

In addition to community events, perhaps many of you have gotten to use our newest stretch of sidewalk along Walden Road and Valley Street. This project has been a long time coming but will be completed in the next few days. Get out and test it out if you haven't already. You will get to see some great fall foliage as we reach peak leaf season in just a few weeks. Don't forget your camera, as Valley Street has some great fall photo opts for you. Regarding pedestrian improvements, the Town staff has been working hard to develop a three year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which will entail yet more sidewalks and trails for Abingdon over the course of the next three years. This plan will capture the results of a two day Council retreat to discuss our future capital improvement needs. We hope to receive input and recommendation from the Planning Commission in January with final adoption scheduled by the Council in March. There will be public hearings at both the Planning Commission and Council levels, so I encourage you to show up for the Public Hearings

and voice your opinions. Notices of the Public Hearings will be posted at the Municipal Building, placed on the Town's website and advertised in the local newspaper.

Another thing to be on the watch for is the creation of the new visitor and interpretive center at the Muster Grounds, construction of which should begin within the next few weeks and be completed thereafter within six weeks, weather permitting. Regarding the Muster Grounds, I hope everyone was able to see the Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration. Just to see the school children's faces light up with amazement from the story telling and reenactments is well worth the Town's investment in this property. What an educational and historic jewel!

As a further testament to the success of this project, the Town was recently presented with the first ever National Park Service "Model Trail Award." The Park Service has also announced that Abingdon will be the location of next year's National Park Service Conference, which is among the first times it has ever been held east of the Mississippi River. So, get ready and keep your eyes open next summer as we hosts hundreds from all over the United States. Believe it or not, we beat out Hawaii for the honor to host this next year. So hats off to all who made this possible, especially Blair Keller, Mike Dahl, Paul Carson and Garrett Jackson.

Before, I close I want to also mention the wonderful press that the Town has received regarding our arts community. As many of you are aware, we were recently compared to Asheville, NC as a strong and vibrant cultural arts community. This story was covered not just locally, but also in Roanoke and Richmond. As a further measure to enhance the importance of our arts community, the town is in the process of establishing an Arts District which should be fully in place the first week in November. Here's to our hard working local and regional artists who fueled this great press and the need for an Arts District. This District is designed to assist through incentives, in getting new artists and art studios and galleries to locate within our downtown area. Accordingly, I encourage us all to get out and buy some local art and visit the exhibits at William King Museum and the Abingdon Arts Depot.

I hope you can see that the enthusiasm around the town continues to grow. So, please, continue to get out and work with us in our team effort to keep this buzz alive.

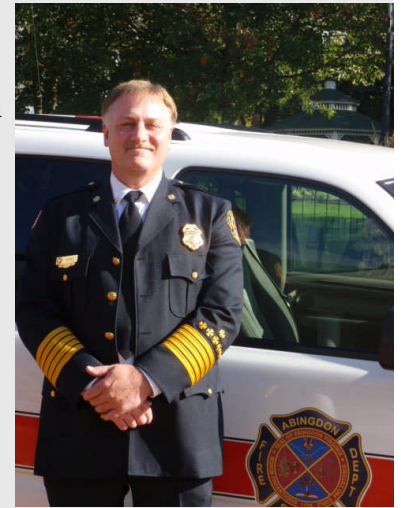
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. J. Kelly".

People You Should Know

Joey Burke

Joey Burke is the Fire Chief for the Town of Abingdon. He was born and raised in Abingdon, where he graduated from Abingdon High School. His grandfather started the family business Burke Print Shop in 1947. After graduating high school, Mr. Burke started working full time in the print shop and has kept up the family legacy. As Fire Chief of the Town of Abingdon, his duties are carrying out the day-to-day tasks of running a firefighting organization; this includes supervising other officers and firefighters at an emergency scene. He is also responsible for recruiting, training and equipping them for their respective duties. For more information on the Abingdon Fire Department please visit their website at www.abingdonfire.org.



Mr. Burke resides in Abingdon with his wife Melissa, who is employed with Johnston Memorial Hospital. He has one daughter who attends E.B. Stanley Middle School. In his spare time, which is rare, he enjoys riding his motorcycle and relaxing. Joey does a great job in leading this community as well as ensuring us of our safety in any situation, a big hat off to him and the fire department staff.

James Agner



James Agner was born in Hawaii to an Army family. He graduated from Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke, Virginia and later attended Virginia Commonwealth University where he graduated with a degree in urban studies and planning. Mr. Agner has been with the town for 15 years serving as the Sports and Community Events Coordinator. His duties for the Recreation department include being in charge of the adult and youth athletics and being the liaison between Midget League Football, Abingdon Little League and Highlands Soccer. As community events coordinator he helps organize and plan everything from the Fourth of July celebration to the Christmas Craft Show. James is an integral part of making the Abingdon Music Experience a huge success.

Mr. Agner resides in Abingdon with his wife, Kim, and their three children (Alexis, Abigail, and Ariel). He enjoys riding his bicycle on the creeper trail, mowing the lawn, and spending time with his family. When you are out at any Town event, be sure to say hey to James and thank him for all his hard work and making these events possible for everyone to enjoy.

GO GREEN CHALLENGE

The Town of Abingdon is excited to announce the upcoming "GO GREEN" challenge. This activity will consist of one community "green" challenge each quarter. There will be four (4) total challenges, each having a specific category to increase awareness in the community sector of ways to make lifestyle changes for sustainability. There will be community incentives / tools given to registered participants specific for each challenge focus, as well as a grand prize each quarter.

November 1, 2009 – January 31, 2010 / H.O.M.E. for the Holidays (H – Heating / Cooling)

This challenge will consist of families / businesses providing a statement from their utility provider for the months of November / December / January of 2009 / 2010 to determine whether they can reduce their overall bill for this year.

February 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010 / H.O.M.E. is where the Heart Is (O – H2O Management)

This challenge will consist of families / businesses attending one workshop per month that focuses on different ways to manage water.

May 1, 2010 – July 30, 2010 / H.O.M.E. Grown (M – Market Savvy)

This challenge will consist of families becoming more aware of their shopping habits.

August 1, 2010 – October 31, 2010 / H.O.M.E. is a "Footprint" Away (E – Emissions)

This challenge will consist of families / businesses completing a baseline carbon footprint to establish their energy consumptions. Each will then work to reduce the consumption over the next 3 months. For more information, please visit

www.abingdon.com/gogreen. The information will be available on Monday, October 5th, so get involved.

The Town of Abingdon



2009 Green Initiative

H.O.M.E. for the Holidays
Family / Business "Heating / Cooling" Challenge
November 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010

A three month challenge to REDUCE energy usage per kWh as compared to figures from 2008 during this holiday season.

Register your family or business at www.abingdon.com/Go Green Initiative for the chance to win \$150 cash prize for each category. Community Challenges offered quarterly!!

H.O.M.E. is where the heart is
Family / Business "Water Management" Challenge
February 1, 2010 - April 30, 2010

A three month challenge that not only teaches water management, but provides many opportunities for the community to practice ways to improve water quality, usage and clever ways to recycle beginning at HOME!

Register your family or business at www.abingdon.com/Go Green Initiative for the chance to win \$150 cash prize for each category. Community Challenges offered quarterly!!

H.O.M.E. GROWN
Family "Market Savvy" Challenge
May 1, 2010 - July 31, 2010

Become more aware of shopping habits while supporting Abingdon's local farmers. Learn new concepts in composting and more!!

Register your family at www.abingdon.com/Go Green Initiative for the chance to win \$150 cash prize. Community Challenges offered quarterly!!

H.O.M.E. is a "FOOTPRINT" away
Family / Business "Emissions" Challenge
August 1, 2010 - October 31, 2010

What impact does your lifestyle have on our environment?

A three month challenge to reduce your carbon footprint

Register your family or business at www.abingdon.com/Go Green Initiative for the chance to win \$150 cash prize for each category.

Coomes Center Events



Sleepy Hollow on Main Street

Saturday, October 24th from 10 am to 6 pm, will be a day filled with spooky fun and games, food, fortune telling and live entertainment. Get there early for story telling and costume contest. This year's event will take place on Main Street. This



year's event will feature: games, inflatables, food, live music, the spooky stew contest, pumpkin carving and other fun things to do. The schedule for this year's event is:

10 – 11 am	Chili Cook Off / Bike Registration
11 – 1 pm	Chili Tasting
1 – 1:45 pm	Judging / Prizes
11 – 2 pm	Town of Abingdon Bike Show
2 – 2:45 pm	Storytelling at House on Main
3 – 4 pm	Car Show Registration
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Costume Parade (from House on Main to Stage area)
4 – 6 pm	Town of Abingdon Car Show
3 – 5 pm	Trick or Treat with Main Street Merchants
3 – 6 pm	Inflatables / Fortune Telling / Games / Cotton Candy / Popcorn
4 – 6 pm	The Secrets Band, featuring Dane Bryant



Holiday Hours

The Coomes Center hours of operation will be adjusted during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday weekends. Please check with the staff for the adjusted schedule. We hope you and your family enjoy the holiday season.



Upcoming programs:

Crafts Show	November 20-22
Christmas Tree Lighting	December 3rd
Breakfast with Santa	December 12th

For information about holiday events, contact the Abingdon Visitors Center at 276-676-2282, Coomes Recreation Center at 276-623-5279 or visit www.abingdon.com for more details.



Main Street News

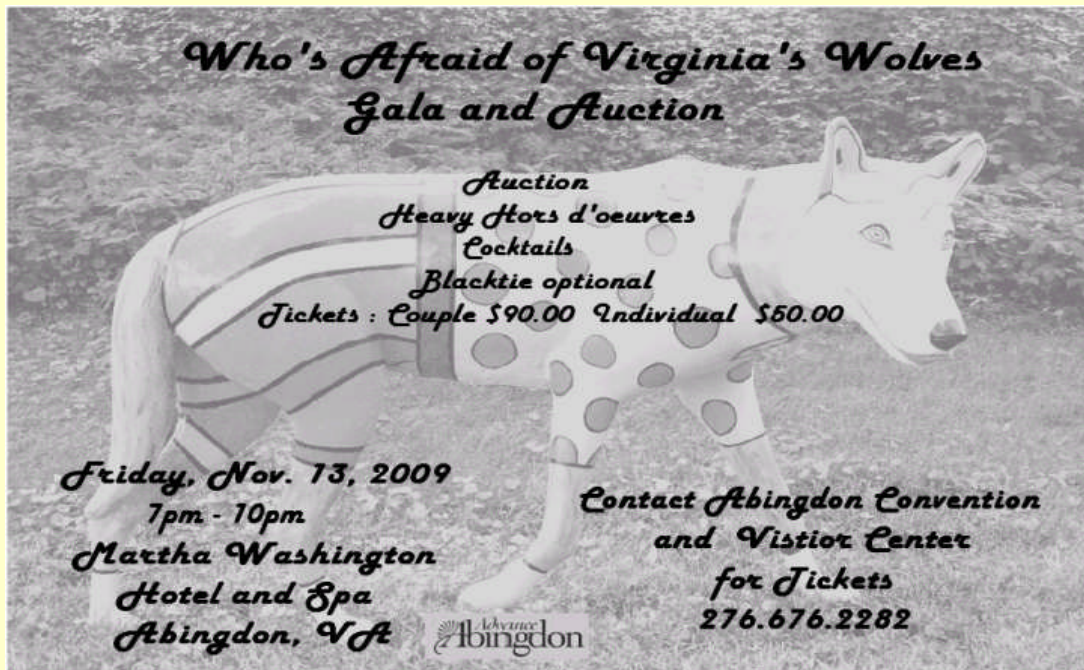


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 22-Trolley Tour of the Arts Gallery Hop in conjunction with Arts Association of Abingdon, 5-8PM. Come Gallery Hop on Main Street this fall! Visit galleries, specialty shops and museums offering extended hours, receptions and live music including Wm. King Museum, The Arts Depot, The Gallery at the Martha Washington, The Gallery at Barr Photographics LLC, Blue Windmill Galleries, Stonemill Studios, and the Holston Mountain Craft Artisans of the Cave House Craft Shop. Something different will dazzle at each venue. The Abingdon Town Trolley will depart every fifteen minutes from the Arts Depot at Depot Square. Admission is Free.

October 23- Advance Abingdon's primary fundraiser kicks off with **Who's Afraid of Virginia's Wolves Raffle- Buy a chance to win a wolf!** Tickets on sale October 23-November 13 for \$5/each. Call 276.676.2282 or stop by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 335 Cummings St.

November 13- Who's Afraid of Virginia's Wolves Gala and Auction



December 5-19- Celebrate the **Twelve Days of Christmas on Main Street** Follow the Town Parade, December 5th, by strolling Main Street's exquisite specialty shops, restaurants and arts venues **open from 12-8PM**. The trolley will be decorated for the holidays and run from 1-7PM on the 5th, and 10-6PM on the next two Saturdays. Visit at least 12 stores in the two weeks and win a special, collectible ornament!



Main Street News



PLEASE VISIT OUR NEWEST BUSINESS: Main Street Barber Shop, 314 East Main Street, Open: M-F 8AM-6PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM. Call 628-6200. Owner, Dale Fields and his daughter, Samantha, have meticulously rehabbed the old, cold storage building to recreate a classic, offering “just a cut and a shave!” You can even enjoy Andy Griffith on the TV and an ice cold coke while you wait!

Summers Cottage, Bed and Breakfast, 309 East Main Street, named for R.J. Summers who built the cottage in 1906. Betsy and Ramsey White have restored this beautiful cottage for year round enjoyment. Tea, coffee and baked goods from Zazzy’z are part of the package!

See www.summerscottageabingdon.com for more information.



GRAND RE-OPENING: Plumb Alley Beads, 280 West Main Street, at its new location inside The Market Place, 276-628-2420.

MERCHANT FOCUS: Holston Mountain Artisans of the Cave House Craft Shop

The Cave House, home to Holston Mountain Arts and Crafts Cooperative for 38 years, will undergo extensive renovations by its owners. As a result, the artisans will be leaving this Abingdon location following the Christmas season. “We will be open for business as usual until Christmas Eve,” Donna Price, co-op manager, said. The Cave House will be open on its regular schedule throughout the coming months, Monday-Saturday, 10-5:30 and Sunday 1-5:00.

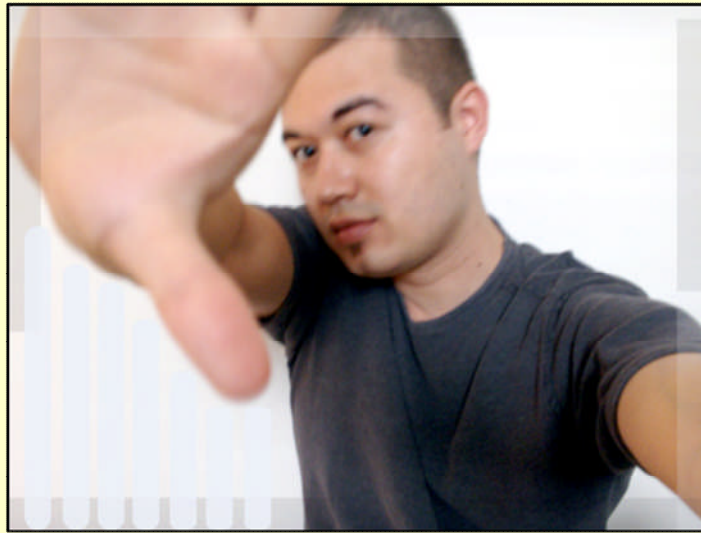
Concerning the future of the co-op, Board President Ray Hall said, “We expect to continue to have a home in Abingdon. The Board of Directors is checking all possible locations. We will continue to represent the artisans of our area and to offer the fine arts and crafts that the public expects in our shop.” Hall expressed appreciation to the Porterfields, who own the building. “The Porterfields have been very generous to the crafts co-op over the last 38 years and we appreciate all their efforts on our behalf,” he said.

-Submitted by Kathy Shearer

ADVANCE Abingdon is a volunteer driven, community based non-profit organization. **Volunteer!** Work with us! Visit the office at 335 Cummings Street inside the Abingdon CVB or send inquiries to advance@abingdonva.us. Look for Advance Abingdon on FACEBOOK and become a fan.

Articles Provided by Elizabeth Iskra, Director of Abingdon Main Street

A New Photographer In Town



In this issue of Black's Fort Messenger, the Economic Development Department continues its introduction of members of our economically important arts community with a new business welcome to Steven Taylor, Renaissance Photographer, and his studio, Trajan Studio, newly located in the heart of downtown Abingdon above the MarketPlace at 280 West Main Street. After basing his business in Marion (VA) for its first year of growth, Steven decided to broaden his horizons by opening a second studio here in Abingdon because, well, according to Steven, people just seem to smile a lot here.

Trajan Studio is not your average photography studio, and Steven Taylor is not your run-of-the-mill photographer. Self-taught in the art, Steven began freelancing in 2006. His background in graphic design, however, gave him a unique perspective that clients appreciate and has helped build his love for creativity. His style is a mixture of classic and contemporary.

Since childhood, Steven has been driven for success. He has literally risen from poverty, at one point, living as one of eight children in a broken-down school bus amongst the mountains of War, WV to a successful artist at age 32. His life experiences have endowed him an incredible work ethic, as well as, opening his mind to a diverse regime. Steven prides himself on being able to give back to the community and contributing his services to non-profit organizations close to his heart. Some of Steven's most recent collaborations have been with IERDO (International Environmental Data Rescue Organization) and the Child Advocacy Program. He also designed invitations and programs for the local chapter of March of Dimes.

Contact Steven at Trajan Studio, 280 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA, phone: 276.706.1134 for all your photographic needs. Also ask Steven about any graphic or web design needs you might have.

Article Provided by Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator

Clydesdales continued...

The crowd on the roundabout was unlike any crowd I have seen gathered there in my twenty years living here. The Highlands Festival, Abingdon Street Dances, the Kiwanis Christmas Parade, all gather a giant crowd of visitors, but none so eager and giddy as was present that day. Grown men and women, both middle-aged and elder, stood in the driveway with faces comparable to those of the children accompanying them as they looked on these enormous and beautiful creatures. It's breathtaking to see them all in harness and garb, bows in their braided manes and tails, and a huge antique red wagon full of Budweiser crates standing in full form before you. With Hans Jager and Barley at the helm of the wagon, the crowd could be no more contained than children in a candy store.



After standing, being photographed and filmed (all the while listening to a never-ending loop of Steve Karmen's "Here Comes the King", the official anthem of the Budweiser Clydesdales) the horses began their trot down the driveway, across Main Street, down College Street, up Valley, and looping back to Main via Pecan to participate in the parade that was mustering below the hill. The people were stirring, all lined up down Main Street 5-deep on each side. Led by the police and local military personnel, the parade crested the hill by the Barter Theatre and satisfied the crowd's hunger for hometown celebration. In succession the National Guard, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Academy East Riding School, our chapter of the D.A.R., Abingdon's own electric car (Floyd Bailey at the helm), and our famous Trolley led the Clydesdales over the hill. After the long climb up, the team stopped in front of the Barter, both to rest and to gather anticipation. The team resumed its march, with Delegate Joe Johnson, Mayor Ed Morgan, and Town Manager Greg Kelly in-tow, to the crowd's great delight. Camera flashes, smiles, waves, cheers, salutes, and overwhelming joy greeted the cavalcade as they traveled closer and closer

to Cummings street. As I ran along side the parade, and ahead to get better filming angles, I saw not only the smiles of the crowd watching this wondrous sight, but the smiles reflected on the faces of our Town's administrators and our own Joe Johnson as they celebrated this occasion. It was a comforting moment of unity between community and administration, brought together once again, this time by ten gigantic horses.

Upon completion of the parade, the horses were displayed to the public who enjoyed having pictures made, meeting and talking to the steering crew and hitch team, and celebrating the efforts of so many as they were seen climbing up to sit on the wagon with Hans. Without the combined efforts of Mark, Jeff, and Challen Walling, Brian Anderson, and the Town of Abingdon, working in close collaboration for 18 months, this would not have happened. If you saw these beautiful animals you surely understand how rewarding it was to complete these labors. We have all seen something that few can boast, a visit from the Budweiser Clydesdales. From this man, and from the community who enjoyed this treat, thank you, Walling Distribution, thank you, administrators of Abingdon, what a sight.

Article provided by Rob Case, IT Department



Heard 'Round Town

Right: Officer Lance Campbell and Officer Brian Stanker were recognized by the Local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their efforts in apprehending intoxicated drivers. Both officers were nominated by the department for recognition and received a plaque at the MADD banquet held on Wednesday, September 16th at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.



The officers were nominated because of their consistency in DUI enforcement. In 2008, Officer Campbell accounted for 22% of the department's total number of DUI arrests and Officer Stanker accounted for 19%. These officers are two of the most enforcement oriented officers in the department and are also among the department leaders in drug arrests.



Left: To honor the visit by the Budweiser Clydesdales, Mayor Morgan and Town Manager, Greg Kelly, presented Walling Distributing with a Resolution and Key to the Town of Abingdon.

Right: The Overmountain Victory Trail Association gave the Town of Abingdon "The Model Trail Award" on Monday, September 21, on the Mustering Ground. Other towns will use Abingdon as their model Overmountain Victory Trail community to set up their events. Mayor Morgan, Councilwoman Humphreys and Town Manager Greg Kelly were there to accept the award, along with other OVT town participants.



Heard 'Round Town



Left: On Sunday, September 20th Ms. Mary Stuart played host to a fundraiser for Barter Theatre in her home. The guest of honor was her brother, Ambassador Howard Baker and his wife Senator Nancy Kassebaum. Mayor Morgan, Councilwoman Humphreys and Councilman Berry presented the ceremonial key to the Town of Abingdon. Also pictured is Richard Rose, Barter Theatre's Artistic Director.



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Left: Gary Kimbrell, President of Main Street, recognized David Pendergrass of the Public Works Department with a one hundred dollar gift for alerting authorities about the abduction of a wolf cub.

Right: In honor of Sammy L. Campbell's civic contribution for many years to the Town of Abingdon and Washington County. Mayor Morgan presented Mr. Campbell with a Resolution and a Key to the Town of Abingdon.



Calendar of Events

Oct	5	Council Work Session @ Town Hall	5:30pm
	5	Council Meeting @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	7	Board of Architectural Review @ Town Hall	5:00pm
	12	Columbus Day (Offices Closed)	
	13	Board of Zoning Appeals @ Town Hall	6:00pm
	19	Tree Commission @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	24	Sleepy Hollow on Main Street	10:00am-6:00pm
	26	Planning Commission @ Town Hall	7:00pm
	28	EVA Board @ Johnston Memorial Hospital	12:30pm
	31	Halloween	
Nov	2	Council Work Session @ Town Hall	5:30pm
	2	Council Meeting @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	3	Election Day	
	4	Board of Architectural Review @ Town Hall	5:00pm
	6-8	Mistletoe Market @ Higher Ed Center	
	10	Board of Zoning Appeals @ Town Hall	6:00pm
	11	Veterans Day (Offices Closed)	
	16	Tree Commission @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	23	Planning Commission @ Town Hall	7:00pm
	25	EVA Board @ Johnston Memorial Hospital	12:30pm
	26	Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)	
Dec	2	Board of Architectural Review @ Town Hall	5:00pm
	5	Kiwanis Christmas Parade on Main Street	11:00am
	7	Council Work Session @ Town Hall	5:30pm
	7	Council Meeting @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	8	Board of Zoning Appeals @ Town Hall	6:00pm
	21	Tree Commission @ Town Hall	7:30pm
	25	Christmas (Offices Closed)	
	28	Planning Commission @ Town Hall	7:00pm
	30	EVA Board @ Johnston Memorial Hospital	12:30pm

Town of Abingdon

Office Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm Phone Number: (276) 628-3167

133 W. Main Street

P.O. Box 789

Abingdon VA 24212

Questions and Comments- abingdonnews@abingdon.com

Administration

<i>Greg Kelly</i>	Town Manager	<i>Cecile Rosenbaum</i>	Town Clerk
<i>Mark Godbey</i>	Finance Director	<i>Tony Sullivan</i>	Police Chief
<i>Myra Cook</i>	Tourism Director	<i>Floyd Bailey</i>	Information Technology
<i>Garrett Jackson</i>	Town Planner	<i>Jim Cowart</i>	Economic Development/Grant Writer
<i>Deb Icenhour</i>	Town Attorney	<i>John Dew</i>	Public Works Director (Streets Division)
<i>Marion Watts</i>	Building Inspection	<i>Jim Smith</i>	Public Works Director (Wastewater Division)
<i>Joey Burke</i>	Fire Chief	<i>Kevin Worley</i>	Parks & Recreation Director
	Jim Hicks		Human Resources and Safety

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